RG104 E-1 Box 137 Jan-Feb 1886

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

12: Jany, 1886

Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 11th inst., touching the subject of the removal of Mr. Edward Wahn Jr. and asking "the nature of the evidence I have of the authorship of the anonymous letter mentioned therein, particularly as to the expertness of the identification of the handwriting on which the accusation seems to rest."

Of course I feel it is due to me that I should have notice of all kinds of reflections upon this institution, whether true or untrue whether over signature or in an anonymous form. To keep me

posted upon the current events of the day in which the operations of and the prosperity of the institution are involved, and I have to thank you for having sent me the anonymous communication referred to promptly. I cheerfully give you the facts of the case.

Upon its receipt I finding its statements entirely false, as for instance "that the bonding would cost $15," which is not true, if the employés furnishing the personal security asked for, it costs nothing. 2nd. "that you were dissatisfied with the amount of Coinage done here last month," which I look upon also as untrue. As a telegram and official letter following, the expression made with regard to the Coinage

of the last month ~~that~~ to wit "the quantity of dimes coined was disappointing", I do not regard as a reflection upon this institution, but simply that the demand upon the Department for that kind of coin was so great that it was hoped our output ~~c~~would have been larger, especially when the aggregate coinage of the month was nearly 3.800.000 dollars, - an unprecedented quantity for any one month; - and here let me interpolate that ~~the telegram, and~~ the letter making ~~it~~ the telegram official passed through Mr Walris hands to be ~~registered~~ entered on the Registry. ~~He~~ as he had charge of the book ~~and it would seem to me that he was the only one who would know of that~~

expression here outside of this office.

He reflects upon the Chief Carpenter and Messenger alleging "that the former is at (what he calls) his laundry all day, his work being done chiefly by a boy," and that "the latter (Messenger) goes home at 11 and returns at 2 p.m. a clerk going to the Post office and doing his work for him." With regard to the former, - he is never absent (for even) more than 15 minutes through the day, except when (assisting in) superintending the Storing of Silver in the Post office vaults, and respecting the latter (the Messenger) there (may) have been a few occasions when another clerk has gone to the Post office for him (to collect the mid-day mail), but not so often as to give rise to the statement

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made in the anonymous communication.

He furthermore says that "the men sleep around the Cellar and will not work for the foremen who are Republicans, and who cannot make them." So far as I have knowledge this is utterly untrue. Every department in this institution has Republicans in it, and there is no one department here in which men will not work for the foremen because of a difference in politics. I may say there There is scarcely a day that I do not make a visit to every department in the Institution and in those visits I have an opportunity of seeing for myself - and these are made

at irregular hours and I am sure were it true I would hear of it—

The deduction of pay for persons when absent" is true — but I look upon it that no employees can absent themselves from the institution, for private purposes, even with permission, and have their pay go on. This, I consider would be unjust to the Government, and I know do make it a uniform rule to deduct for such absence— you will agree with me in this

When the communication was received, I exhibited it to the executive officers and a number of the clerks, and they uniformly identified it as the hand writing and charged it upon Mr Wales. I sent for his Register and had a close and critical examination and comparison of the hand-

writing contained therein, and it was astonishing how great a similarity there was between them. In showing the letter, and the Register, nothing was said about the Wales, the letter being first exhibited then the book. The question was asked "Do you know that hand writing?" "Yes" said one gentleman, "I know the hand writing and I can prove it to be by the Clerk who keeps the Register". The book was produced and it was easily discerned that the hand that made the Registry, wrote the anonymous communication. It was suggested that the commencement of the letter "Sir, we are again compelled" was in the writers natural hand. the balance in a back-

hand as though there was a desire
to disguise it, this is perfectly evident — I have shown it to 5
of those closest to me in official
relation — 3 of whom are located
in the room in which Mr Wahn was
employed, and they immediately de-
clared the writing to be his. Here I
to exhibit to you the anonymous letter,
together with other specimens of Mr
Wahn's writing, I am sure that on
comparison, you would inevitably concur with
the other gentlemen as to the authorship
of the letter.

Being satisfied in my own mind
~~of the authorship of the letter~~, I sent
for Mr Wahn and showed him the
letter, and asked him if he wrote it.

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He ~~emphatically~~ emphatically denied it and then asked permission to read it, simply glanced at it - or read only a part of the first page - and reiterated his denial. I subsequently learned from one of the gentlemen whom I consulted that for some time past Mr Wade has been criticising my course in deducting from the daily pay for voluntary absence. It seems that Mr. Llewellyn Snowden, a short while since, asked leave of absence for several days on private business, and my refusal to give him full pay for that time, although permission was granted him, was a cause of severe criticism on the part of Mr.

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who informed me

Walu, and the gentleman, ~~referred to~~, ~~says~~ said that in his presence, Mr Walu ~~he~~ told Mr Snowden he ought to write to Washington, Complaining of the deduction. this shows confirmation as one of the causes of complaint was just such diminution of pay —

I have had furnished me to day the remainder of the tablet — the paper of which is exactly the same in size color, texture, and quality as that of the anonymous letter — which had been on Mr Walu's desk and on its back in his hand writing are the words "Confiscated by E. Walu", meaning that he had taken it from another clerks desk. — it seems to me to be the very tablet from which the paper from which the anonymous communication was written was taken

Convinced of his authorship of the letter, I requested ~~his~~ Mr Walu's resignation, and on his refusing to resign, I dismissed

line on Saturday a Republican newspaper

On Sunday the "Republic" of this City-edited by Mr Dunglison formerly employed in this Mint who gave me until his resignation after my assuming the superintendency, - contained an article of scandalous character touching the subject which from the statements contained therein, as compared seems remarkably coincidental to with those in Mr Wahl's letters both to yourself and myself, prove that he was the instigator of the article. I may say that Mr Dunglison, above referred to, since the week of his departure has regularly continued to pour unmeasured abuse both upon the institution and myself, and was only would doubtless be too glad to get anything that would furnish abusive material for the paper

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~~too glad to afford McWain a space~~
~~in his columns.~~

On 28th ult. last McWain wrote me a letter asking that his pay be increased. I take it (may be) that my verbal refusal on the grounds of not having any authority to make the increase (this may have had something to do) displeased him, and may have been the animus (with) of the anonymous communication.

On the 11th inst. I received a letter from McWain of an impertinent character saying that "I seemed to be unacquainted with the instincts of a gentleman" and that I was "servile to some Scurvy politician's dictation", and threatening me with a criminal

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prosecution for defamation of character whilst on Saturday he writes you, putting his own complexion on the matter and asking you to do something for him. Thus, he resorts to newspapers, personal abuse to me with threats of lawsuit; and asks my Superior intervene so that he might be to reinstate him.

Concluding that he was the author of the communication notwithstanding his denial I look upon it as one of the greatest official discourtesies that could be perpetrated for a subordinate, without complaining for him speaking direct to me and verifying such statements as he has made, as to the internal economy of the institution, to write over my

lead to my superior officer and ig=
nore me. Such a course I never
can look upon with complacency
and I feel confident that in this
you will concur with me.

In regard to the conversation
subject I
lately had with you ~~with regard~~
as to dispensing with Mr Wales's po=
sition, I beg to say that since then
the necessity for more clerical as=
sistance in the institution, has
become so patent that I am
led ~~me~~ to the conclusion that if
the duties of the position
his services were enlarged - which I
purpose
propose to do - the position should
not be dispensed with.

I herewith enclose Mr Wales's
communication to you. Shall I

respectfully ask that you will preserve it, so that if any necessity shall arise exist for its production ~~at any time~~, it may be accessible.

In a few days, I hope to be in Washington, when I will exhibit such of the evidence as I can conveniently carry for your inspection; or, if you are coming this way before I reach Washington I will ~~exhibit~~ submit everything to you, and I am very sure you will arrive at the same conclusion, I have

Very respectfully

Hon: James P. Kimball
Director of the Mint
Washington
D.C.

Your obedient servant

Superintendent

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RG104 E-1 Box 137 Jan-Feb 1886

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

Jan. 12, 1886

Daniel M. Fox

Superintendent.

His reasons for believing
Mr Hale wrote the
Anonymous Letter.
To Director.

No. of Enclosures,

Draft of letter to
about Wales'
(unsent)

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 137

[Abstract:] His reasons for believing Mr. Waln wrote the anonymous Letter to Director.

Draft of Letter set about Waln (never sent).

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,
Superintendent's Office,
January 12, 1886

Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 11th inst., touching the subject of the removal of Mr. Edward Waln Jr. and asking "the nature of the evidence I have of the authorship of the anonymous letter mentioned therein, particularly as to the expertness of the identification of the handwriting on which the accusation seems to rest."

Of course I feel it is due to me that I should have notice of all kinds of reflections upon this institution, whether true or untrue whether over signature or in even anonymous form. It keeps me posted upon the current events of the day in which the operations of and the prosperity of the institution are involved, and I have to thank you for having sent me the anonymous communication referred to ~~to me so promptly~~. I cheerfully give you the facts of the case.

Upon its receipt I find its statements false, as for instance the bonding would cost $15, "~~which is~~ not true ~~for~~ as if the employee's furnish~~ing~~ the personal security asked for, it~~s~~ costs nothing. 2nd "<u>that you were dissatisfied with the amount of coinage done here last month</u>", which I look upon also as untrue, as a telegram and official letter following, the expression made with regard to the Coinage of the last month to wit "<u>the quantity of dimes coined was disappointing</u>", I do not regard as reflection upon this institution, but simply that the demand upon the Department for that kind of coin was so great that it was hoped our output would have been larger, especially when the aggregate coinage of the month was nearly 3,800,000 dollars, - an unprecedented quantity for any one month; - and here let me interpolate that ~~the telegram, and~~ the letter making the telegram ~~it~~ official passed through Mr. Waln's hands to be ~~registered~~ entered on the Registry as he had charge of the book ~~and it would seem to me that he was the only one who would know of that expression here outside of this office.~~

He reflects upon the Chief Carpenter and Messenger alleging "<u>that the former is at</u> (what he calls) <u>his laundry all day, his work being done chiefly by a boy</u>," and that the "the latter messenger <u>goes home at 11 and returns at 2 p.m. a clerk going to the Post Office and doing his work for him</u>." With regard to the former; he is never absent for even <u>more than</u> 15 minutes through the day, except when assisting in ~~superintending~~ the storing of Silver in the Post Office vaults; and respecting the latter (the passenger) there may have been a few occasions when another clerk has gone to the Post Office for him to collect the mid-day mail but not so offer as to give rise to the statement made in the anonymous communication.

He furthermore says that "<u>the men sleep around the cellar and will not work for the foremen who are Republicans, and who cannot make them</u>." So far as I have knowledge this is utterly untrue. Every department in this institution has Republicans in it, and there is no one

department ~~here~~ in which men will not work for the foremen because of a difference in politics. ~~There~~ May say there is scarcely a day that I do not make a visit to every department in the Institution and in those visits I have an opportunity of seeing for myself – ~~and~~ these are made at irregular hours and I am sure were if true I would know of it.

The deduction of pay for persons when absent "is true – but I look upon it that no employees can be absent themselves from the institution, for private ~~business~~ purposes even with permission, and have their pay go on. This, I ~~think would be~~ consider unjust to the Government, and I ~~know you will agree with me in this~~ do make it a uniform rule to select for such absence.

When the communication was received, I exhibited it to the executive officers and a number of the clerks, and they uniformly identified it as the hand writing and charged it upon Mr. Waln. I sent for his Register and had a close and critical examination and comparison of the handwriting contained therein, and it was astonishing how great a similarity there was between them. In showing the letter, and the register, noting was said about Mr. Waln, the letter being first exhibited then the book. The question was asked "Do you know that hand writing?" "Yes" said one gentleman, "I know the handwriting and I can prove it to be by the clerk who keeps the Register". The book was produced and it was easily discerned that the hand that ~~made~~ penned the registry, wrote the anonymous communication. It was suggested that the words at the commencement of the letter "Sir, we are again compelled" was in the writer's natural hand: the balance in a back-hand as though there was a desire to disguise this it this is perfectly evident. I have shown it to 5 or 6 of those closest to me in official relation – 3 of whom are located in the room in which Mr. Waln was employed and they immediately declared the writing to be his. Were I to exhibit to you the anonymous letter, together with other specimens of Mr. Waln's writing, I am sure that on comparison, you would inevitably concur with the other gentlemen as to the authorship of the letter.

Being satisfied in my own mind ~~of the authorship of the letter~~, I sent for Mr. Waln and showed him the letter, and asked him if he wrote it. He empathetically denied it and then asked permission to read it, simply glanced at it – or read only a part of the first page – and reiterated his denial. I subsequently learned from one of the gentlemen whom I consulted that ~~for some time past~~ Mr. Waln has been criticizing my course in deducting ~~from the~~ daily pay for voluntary absence. It seems that Mr. Llewellyn Snowden, a short while since, asked leave of absence for several days on private business, and my refusal to give him full pay for that time, "although permission was granted him, was a cause of ~~severe~~ criticism on the part of Mr. Waln, and the gentleman who informed me referred ~~to say~~ said that in his presence, Mr. Waln ~~he~~ told Mr. Snowden he ought to write to Washington, complaining of the deductions. This shows confirmation as one of the causes of complaint was just such discrimination of pay. I have had furnished me to day the remainder of the tablet – the paper of which is exactly the same in size, color, texture, and quality as that of the anonymous letter – which had been on Mr. Waln's desk and on its back in his hand writing are the words "Confiscated by E. Waln", meaning that he had taken it from another clerk's desk. It seems to me to be the only tablet from which the paper from which the anonymous communication was written was taken.

Convinced of his authorship of the letter, I requested ~~his~~ Mr. Waln's resignation, and on his refusing to resign, I dismissed him ~~on Saturday~~.

On Sunday the "Republic" of this City – edited by Mr. Dunglison formerly employed in this Mint ~~until~~ who gave me his resignation after my assuming the Superintendency, - contained an article of scandalous character touching the subject which seems remarkably coincidence to ~~from~~ the statements contained ~~therein, as compared with those~~ in Mr. Waln's letters both to yourself and myself, ~~prove that he was the instigator of the article~~. I may say that Mr. Dunglison, above referred to, since the week of his departure has regularly continued to pour unmeasured abuse both upon the institution and myself, and would doubtless ~~was only~~ be too glad to get any thing that would furnish abusive material for the paper ~~too glad to afford Mr. Waln a space in his columns.~~

On 28th Aug. last Mr. Waln wrote me a letter asking that his pay be increased. ~~I take~~ it maybe that my verbal refusal on the grounds of not having any authority to make the increase displeased him, ~~and may have been the animus~~ of this may have had something to do with the anonymous communication.

On the 11th inst. I received a letter from Mr. Waln of an impertinent character saying that "I seemed to be unacquainted with the instincts of a gentleman" and that I was "servile to some scurvy politician's dictation", and threatening me with a criminal prosecution for defamation of character whilst on Saturday he writes you, putting his own complexion on the matter and asking you to do something for him. Thus, he resorts to newspapers, personal abuse to me with threats of lawsuit; and asks my superior to intervene so that he might be reinstated ~~him.~~

Concluding that he was the author of the communication not withstanding his denial I took upon it as one of the greatest official discourtesies that could be perpetrated for a subordinate, for him without ~~complaining~~ speaking direct to me and verifying such statements as he has made, as ~~to the internal economy of the institutions~~, to write over my head to my Superior officer and ignore me. Such a course I never can look upon with complacency and I feel confident that in this you will concur with me.

In regard to the conversation ~~subject I~~ lately had with you ~~with regard~~ as to dispersing with Mr. Waln's position, I beg to say that since then the necessity for more clerical assistance in the institution, has become so patent that I am led ~~me~~ to the conclusion that if ~~his service~~ the duties of the position were enlarged – which I ~~propose~~ propose to do – the position should not be dispense with.

I herewith enclose Mr. Waln's communication to you. Shall I respectfully ask that you will preserve it, so that if any necessity shall write ~~exist~~ for its production ~~at any time~~, it may be accessible.

In a few days, I hope to be in Washington, when I will exhibit such of the evidences as I can conveniently carry for your inspection; or, if you are coming this way before I reach Washington I will ~~exhibit~~ submit everything to you, ~~and I am very sure you will arrive at the same conclusion, I have~~

Very respectfully,
~~Your obedient servant~~

Superintendent

Hon. James P. Kimball
Director of the Mint
Washington, D.C.